

Gila Community Foundation



Gateway for Giving

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

GilaCF.org

Empowering Philanthropy. Strengthening Communities.



Dear Friends,

In 2024, the Gila Community Foundation continued its mission to bridge the gap between donors' philanthropic aspirations and the needs of nonprofits across Southwestern New Mexico. Through strategic partnerships and community engagement, we have fostered sustainable growth and resilience in our region.

We are proud to share our **first-ever public Annual Report**, a milestone that reflects our deepening commitment to transparency, accountability, and impact. This report highlights our financial stewardship, programmatic achievements, and the collective efforts that are moving our community forward.

Among this year's accomplishments, **Give Grandly 2024** stood out as a powerful demonstration of community generosity. In its eleventh year, the event raised over **\$250,000** for more than **65 local nonprofits**, bringing people together across counties and causes. The enthusiasm and generosity shown during Give Grandly continue to prove that when we work together, we can achieve remarkable things.

We also made significant strides with **Pathways to Progress**, our signature nonprofit capacity-building initiative. Through hands-on workshops, nonprofit leader luncheons, and direct technical assistance, we've equipped local organizations with the tools they need to grow, lead, and serve more effectively.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Your trust and support power the progress we are proud to share in these pages.

With gratitude,

Jamie Sechrist
Executive Director



What is a Community Foundation?

At the Gila Community Foundation, we believe that philanthropy should be as rooted in place as the people it serves. A community foundation is a unique kind of nonprofit—one that exists to improve the quality of life in a specific region by connecting donors with causes that matter most, right here at home.

As the only community foundation dedicated exclusively to Southwestern New Mexico, we are proud to serve as a trusted partner in local giving, helping individuals, families, and businesses create lasting impact in the communities they care about. From education and the arts to health, nature, and youth engagement, we support the nonprofits and projects that make this region vibrant and resilient.

Most of all, we are stewards—of financial resources, relationships, and shared values. Stewardship means more than just management—it means caring for what matters. We protect and grow charitable gifts, cultivate community partnerships, and ensure that grants reflect both the spirit of our donors and the evolving needs of our region.

Together, we're building a stronger, more connected Southwestern New Mexico—one gift, one partnership, one step at a time.



What does a Community Foundation do?

At the Gila Community Foundation, we serve as a vital bridge between generous donors and the nonprofits working every day to improve life in Southwestern New Mexico. Our role is both strategic and supportive—ensuring that charitable contributions are used effectively, efficiently, and in ways that create lasting, meaningful change.

We provide a strong foundation for giving by offering:

Donor Support

We make philanthropy easy and accessible. Whether through Donor Advised Funds, endowments, or legacy giving, we help individuals, families, and businesses invest in their values and support the causes they care about—now and for generations to come.

Grantmaking Expertise

We know this region, and we know its needs. By identifying local challenges and opportunities, we direct charitable dollars to the nonprofits and projects that will make the most impact. Our approach is strategic, community-informed, and focused on results.

Nonprofit Resources

Through programs like Pathways to Progress, we provide essential training, funding opportunities, and capacity-building support to help local nonprofits strengthen their operations, grow their reach, and sustain their missions.

Key Features of a Community Foundation

Local Focus

We’re deeply rooted in the region we serve. Our understanding of the unique strengths and struggles of Southwestern New Mexico allows us to respond thoughtfully and effectively.

Flexible Giving Options

Donors can contribute to existing community funds, establish their own named funds, or support targeted areas such as youth engagement, community health, or the arts.

Long-Term Impact

Gifts to the Gila Community Foundation don’t stop giving. Our endowments and investment strategies ensure that support continues to grow—and benefit the region—for years to come.

Trusted Stewardship

We are committed to transparency, accountability, and excellence in financial management. Donors and community members can trust that their contributions are managed with care and integrity

Who we are

Our Mission:

The Gila Community Foundation builds a stronger, more resilient community by fostering sustainable philanthropic growth.

Our Vision:

As the leader in community giving, our vision is to facilitate tangible impact for donors and the community.

Rooted in Purpose. Driven by Community.

At the Gila Community Foundation, we are dedicated to **empowering donors to give with purpose, equipping nonprofits to grow with confidence, and ensuring our rural communities have access to the resources and support they deserve.**

As the only community foundation exclusively serving **Southwestern New Mexico**, we are deeply invested in the people, places, and possibilities of our region. Every gift we steward, every partnership we foster, and every grant we make is guided by a vision of equity, resilience, and shared prosperity.



Our impact is focused on **four essential pillars** that reflect the heart of our community:

Arts & Culture

We support creative expression, preserve our rich regional heritage, and celebrate the voices that make our communities vibrant and unique.

Community Health & Wellbeing

We invest in programs that improve quality of life—from increasing access to healthcare to addressing food insecurity and mental health services.

Education & Youth Engagement

We believe every child deserves the chance to learn, grow, and lead. We support youth programs, scholarships, and educational partnerships that open doors to opportunity.

Land & Nature

We champion environmental stewardship, sustainable land use, and conservation efforts that protect the natural beauty and resources of our region for generations to come.

Together with our donors, grantees, and community partners, the Gila Community Foundation is building a future that is bold, inclusive, and deeply rooted in local values.

Become a Community Architect!

Invest in Hope.
Build Resilience.
Strengthen Community.

When you give—monthly, quarterly, annually, or one-time—you are laying the foundation for a stronger future in Southwestern New Mexico.

Every community needs its builders. At the Gila Community Foundation, Community Architects are those who choose to give with vision and purpose. Your support sustains nonprofits, strengthens families, and ensures our rural communities have the resources they need—not just in moments of stability, but also in times of crisis.

In 2024 & 2025, Community Architects helped:

- **Fuel Growth & Learning** through Pathways to Progress workshops, training, and strategic tools that expand nonprofit capacity.
- **Strengthen Local Giving** with Donor Advised Funds, endowments, and fiscal sponsorships that connect philanthropy to the causes that matter most.
- **Provide Emergency Relief** during wildfires and natural disasters—funding evacuation lodging, replacing wells, refrigerators, and other essentials when neighbors lost everything. (Separate fund)
- **Ensure Long-Term Stability** by protecting and growing funds that will support Grant, Hidalgo, Luna, and Catron counties for generations.



COMMUNITY ARCHITECTS

Together, as Community Architects, we are building not just structures of support—but lifelines of hope, resilience, and opportunity for every corner of Southwestern New Mexico.

Your Gift.
Your Legacy.

Monthly Donor

Be the steady hand nonprofits rely on, providing predictable support every month.

Quarterly Donor

Support in seasons, ensuring momentum throughout the year.

Annual Donor

Make a once-a-year investment that fuels bold progress across the region.

One-Time Donor

Every single gift matters—whether to spark new opportunities or to step up when disaster strikes.

Join today:
GilaCF.org
(575) 956-6095

Our 2025 Board of Directors



Stephen Lindsey
Board Chair



Dana Rosser
Vice Chair

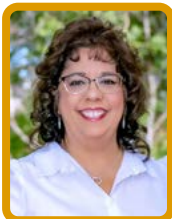


Peggy Hutchinson
Secretary



Jennifer Klotz
Treasurer

Board Members



Priscilla
Lucero



Vladimir
Gnilozubov



Pamela Warren
Williams



Katelyn
Church



April
Crosby



Ike
Foster



Our new
Executive Director
Jamie Sechrist

Our 2025 Committees

Executive Committee

Finance Committee

Leadership and
Development Committee

Grants Committee

Community Architects

GCF Committees offer a meaningful way to get involved and make a difference in our community. They also help us identify and engage future board members who are passionate about our mission.

Interested in joining?
Email us at info@gilacf.org to learn more!

What we do

Helping You Give with Purpose.
Supporting Nonprofits with Strength.

At the Gila Community Foundation, we turn generosity into action. By offering flexible, customized giving solutions, we help donors fulfill their philanthropic goals while providing essential financial and administrative support to nonprofits across Southwestern New Mexico.

Whether you're an individual, family, business, or nonprofit organization, GCF offers trusted tools that make giving impactful, accessible, and lasting.

Giving Options Designed for You

Donor Advised Funds (DAFs)

DAFs offer donors the ability to contribute to a charitable fund and recommend grants to their favorite nonprofits at their own pace. This is especially helpful for individuals facing tax obligations, such as Required Minimum Distributions from IRAs. By directing those funds into a DAF, donors can avoid tax consequences while keeping the flexibility to support causes when the time is right. There's no set schedule, no required minimum, and the fund remains active as long as the donor desires.

Field of Interest Funds

Support a cause you care about—such as youth, education, or the environment—without naming a specific organization. We'll ensure your gift is used where it's needed most in that field.

Designated Funds

Choose a specific nonprofit you wish to support long-term. GCF will ensure your designated support continues with stability and integrity.

Endowments

Endowments are built for long-term impact. These funds protect the original gift in perpetuity, allowing investment earnings to support nonprofit organizations year after year. Governed by GCF's Spending Policy, these distributions ensure sustainability while honoring the donor's legacy and intent.

Agency Funds

Created by nonprofits themselves, these funds provide long-term financial support while benefiting from GCF's professional fund management and investment expertise.

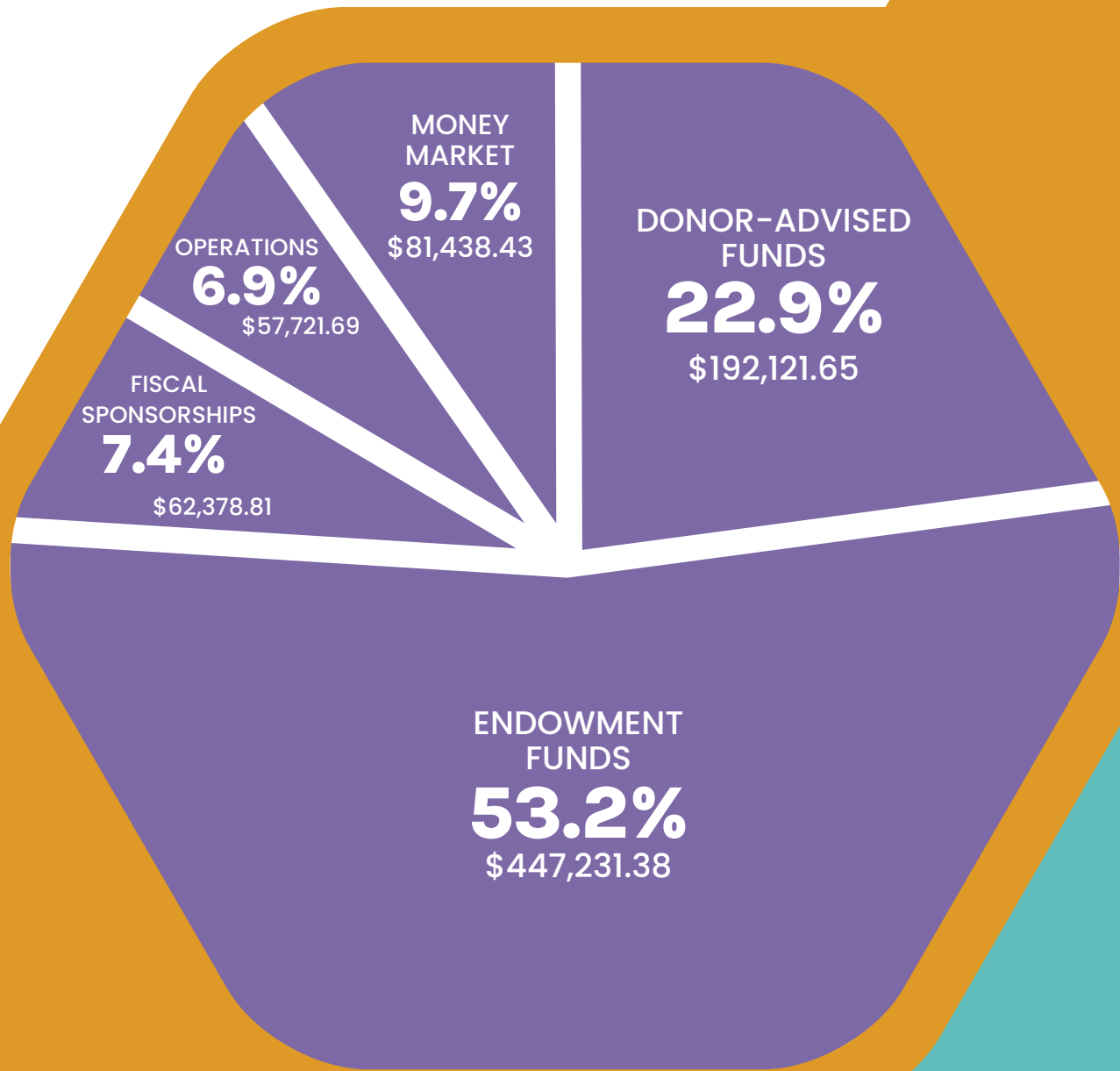
Fiscal Sponsorships

Not every great idea starts with a 501(c)(3)—but that shouldn't be a barrier to making a difference. GCF's fiscal sponsorship program allows emerging nonprofits and grassroots projects to operate under our umbrella, offering them the ability to accept tax-deductible donations, focus on their mission, and leave the financial oversight and reporting to us.

Whatever your vision for giving,
GCF is here to help you
make it a reality—with
transparency, care, and a
deep commitment to
our shared community.

2024 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

As of year-end 2024, the Gila Community Foundation managed a total of \$840,891.96 across a variety of funds supporting our mission as well as the donors and nonprofits we serve.



These funds ensure the ongoing strength and flexibility of GCF’s grantmaking, community support, and organizational capacity-building initiatives.

Join Us in Shaping the Future of Southwestern New Mexico

Because lasting change begins with a single act of generosity.

At the Gila Community Foundation, we believe that everyone has something to give—and that giving, when done with purpose, can transform communities. In 2024, your generosity helped fund local nonprofits, support emergency relief, grow community leadership, and strengthen the organizations that serve our region every day.

But there’s still more to do—and we can’t do it without you.

Whether you’re a donor, nonprofit leader, volunteer, or community advocate, there’s a place for you in the GCF family. When you partner with us, you’re not just making a gift—you’re creating a legacy of impact that will echo through generations.

Leave a Legacy. Inspire Others.

Together, we are building a stronger, more resilient Southwestern New Mexico—one gift, one story, one connection at a time.



2024 Annual Report



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COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Gila Community Foundation

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Serving Grant, Hidalgo, Luna & Catron Counties